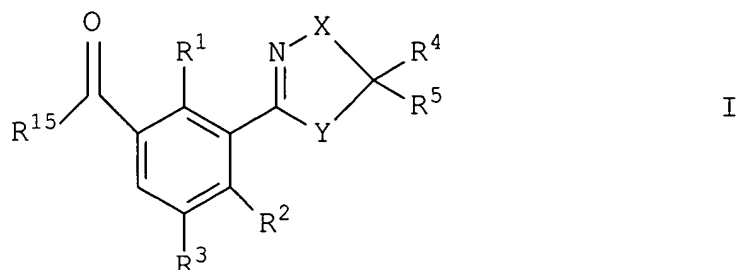


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I



where the variables have the following meanings:

R¹, R² are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R⁴, R⁵ are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, di(C₁-C₄-alkoxy)-C₁-C₄-alkyl, di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-amino-C₁-C₄-alkyl, [2,2-di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-1-hydrazino]-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyliminoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-cyanoalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, hydroxyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, COR⁶, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to

three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₂-C₆-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together with the corresponding carbon from a carbonyl or thiocarbonyl group;

R⁶ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy or NR⁷R⁸;

R⁷ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R⁸ is C₁-C₄-alkyl;

X is ~~O, S, NR⁹, CO or~~ CR¹⁰R¹¹;

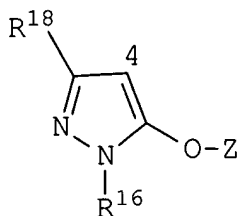
Y is O, S, or NR¹² ~~or CO~~;

R⁹, R¹² are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R¹⁰, R¹¹ are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxycarbonyl or CONR⁷R⁸; or

R⁴ and R⁹ or R⁴ and R¹⁰ or R⁵ and R¹² together form a C₂-C₆-alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R¹⁵ is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

Z is ~~[H or]~~ H or SO₂R₁₇;

R¹⁷ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R¹⁸ is hydrogen or ~~C₁-C₆-alkyl~~ C₁-C₆-alkyl;

~~where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;~~

with the exception of

4-[2-chloro-3-(4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)-4-methylsulfonylbenzoyl]-1,3-di-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazol

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A 3-heterocycl-yl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claims in claim 1, where the variables have the following meanings:

R^1 , R^2 are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkylthio, C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfinyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfonyl or C_1 - C_6 -haloalkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen, halogen or C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

R^4 , R^5 are hydrogen, halogen, cyano, nitro, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, di(C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy)- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, di(C_1 - C_4 -alkyl)-amino- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, [2,2-di(C_1 - C_4 -alkyl)-1-hydrazino]- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkyliminoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -cyanoalkyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_2 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, hydroxyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonyloxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, di(C_1 - C_4 -alkyl)amino, COR^6 , phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2 - C_6 -alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together with the corresponding carbon from a carbonyl or thiocarbonyl group;

R^6 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_2 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_3 - C_6 -alkenyloxy, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyloxy or NR^7R^8 ;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^8 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

X is O , ~~S , NR^9 , CO or $CR^{10}R^{11}$~~ ;

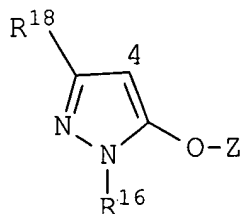
Y is O , S , or NR^{12} ~~or CO~~ ;

R^9 , R^{12} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^{10} , R^{11} are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$; or

R^4 and R^9 or R^4 and R^{10} or R^5 and R^{12} together form a C_2 - C_6 -alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R^{16} is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

Z is ~~H or~~ H or SO_2R^{17} ;

R¹⁷ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R¹⁸ is hydrogen or ~~C₁-C₆-alkyl~~ C₁-C₆-alkyl;

~~where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;~~

with the exception of

4-[2-chloro-3-(4,5-dihydrothiazol-2-yl)-4-methylsulfonylbenzoyl]-1,3-di-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazol

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where R³ is hydrogen.

4. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R¹, R² are nitro, halogen, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl.

5. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R⁴ is halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-cyanoalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, COR⁶, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₂-C₆-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl.

9. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R⁴ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl or CONR⁷R⁸;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₂-C₆-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl.

10. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where R⁴ and R⁵ are hydrogen.

11. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where R¹⁸ is hydrogen.

12. - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 or 2, where

R⁴ is halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-cyanoalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, COR⁶, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully

or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₂-C₆-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁹ or R⁴ and R¹⁰ or R⁵ and R¹² together form a C₂-C₆-alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl.

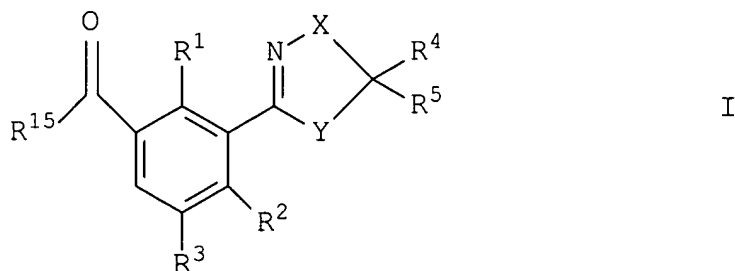
17. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 or 2 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the information of crop protection products.

22. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 21, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt thereof and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 or 2 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

24. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I



where the variables have the following meanings:

R¹, R² are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-

haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R⁴ is halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-cyanoalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, COR⁶, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₂-C₆-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl.

R⁶ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₃-C₆-alkynyloxy or NR⁷R⁸;

R⁷ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R⁸ is C₁-C₄-alkyl;

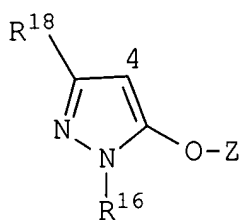
X is O, S, NR⁹, CO or CR¹⁰R¹¹;

Y is O, S, NR¹² or CO;

R⁹, R¹² are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R¹⁰, R¹¹ are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxycarbonyl or CONR⁷R⁸; or

R¹⁵ is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R¹⁶ is C₁-C₆-alkyl;

Z is H;

R¹⁷ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R¹⁸ is hydrogen or ~~C₁-C₆-alkyl~~ C₁-C₆-alkyl;

where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24 where the variables have the following meanings:

R¹, R² are hydrogen, nitro, halogen, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R⁴ is halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-cyanoalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, COR⁶, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₂-C₆-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R^6 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_2 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_3 - C_6 -alkenyloxy, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyloxy or NR^7R^8 ;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^8 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

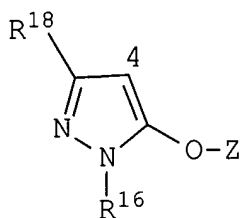
X is O, S, NR^9 , CO or $CR^{10}R^{11}$;

Y is O, S, NR^{12} or CO;

R^9 , R^{12} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^{10} , R^{11} are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$; or

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



II

where

R^{16} is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

Z is H;

R^{17} is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy;

R^{18} is hydrogen or ~~C_1-C_6 -alkyl~~ C_1-C_6 -alkyl;

where X and Y are not simultaneously sulfur;

or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where R^3 is hydrogen.

27. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

R^1 , R^2 are nitro, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6 -alkyl, C_1-C_6 -haloalkyl, C_1-C_6 -alkoxy, C_1-C_6 -haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6 -alkylthio, C_1-C_6 -haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6 -alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6 -haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6 -alkylsulfonyl or C_1-C_6 -haloalkylsulfonyl.

28. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

R^4 is C_1-C_4 -alkyl, C_1-C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 -alkyl; or

R^4 and R^5 together form a C_2-C_6 -alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C_1-C_4 -alkyl and/or which can be

interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl.

29. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where R¹⁸ is hydrogen.

30. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

X is S, NR⁹, CO or CR¹⁰R¹¹.

31. (Previously Presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as claimed in claim 24, where

R⁴ is halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-cyanoalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₂-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio, di(C₁-C₄-alkyl)amino, COR⁶, phenyl or benzyl, it being possible for the two last-mentioned substituents to be fully or partially halogenated and/or to have attached to them one to three of the following groups: nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy;

R⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₂-C₆-alkanediyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or which can be interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl; or

R⁴ and R⁹ or R⁴ and R¹⁰ or R⁵ and R¹² together form a C₂-C₆-alkane-diyl chain which can be mono- to tetrasubstituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl and/or interrupted by oxygen or by a nitrogen which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl.

32. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim ~~1~~
24 or 25 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the information of crop protection products.

33. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 32, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt thereof and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I as defined in claim 24 or of an agriculturally useful salt thereof to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

35. (New) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 2, where Z is SO_2R^{17} .

36. (New) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl derivative of the formula I as claimed in claim 2, where Z is hydrogen.